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State unemployment rate dips below 3 percent again in November

JEFFERSON CITY -- Following a temporary increase in the state's jobless rate in October, Missouri unemployment decreased two-tenths of a percentage point to an estimated 2.9 percent in November.

Besides the revised jobless rate of 3.1 percent in October, Missouri's statewide unemployment rate has remained at or below 3 percent since August 1999.

Approximately more than 84,000 Missourians were estimated to have been jobless in November, while nearly 2.9 million were working. This employment figure, which represents the number of employed Missourians, was also down slightly over the month, which is typical for late fall. Over the past year, total employment has grown by more than 58,000, while unemployment increased by more than 11,000 individuals.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the jobless rate dipped by half a percentage point to 3.2 percent in November, nearly the same as September's revised 3.1 percent seasonally adjusted rate. A year ago, 2.9 percent of the labor force was jobless, on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Non-farm payroll employment increased by 7,500 jobs in November, to a total of more than 2.8 million. Job gains were concentrated in retail trade -- up more than 8,000 jobs -- and government -- up nearly 3,000 jobs. Gains in retail trade were mainly in general merchandise and apparel stores, which grew by nearly 5,000 jobs collectively, reflecting the usual holiday season increase.

Some industries experienced seasonal decreases in employment in November, including construction, which dropped nearly 3,000 jobs, and amusement and recreation services, which lost more than 1,000 jobs.

Over the past year, payroll employment has grown by 35,500 jobs, or 1.3 percent. In the service-producing sector, services grew collectively by 25,500 jobs, while retail trade employment grew by more than 7,000 jobs. Compared to a year ago, total government employment, including public schools and colleges, was up by 8,000 jobs.

In the goods-producing sector, construction employment was virtually unchanged from a year-earlier figure of nearly 144,000 jobs. Manufacturing employment decreased by more than 6,000, despite gains totaling more than 2,000 jobs in automotive manufacturing caused by the return of workers who had been laid off at some automobile assembly plants around this time last year.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (NOV. 2000), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (SEPT. AND OCT. 2000), AND YEAR AGO (NOV. 1999)

	NOV 2000	OCT 2000	SEP 2000	NOV 1999		NOV 2000	OCT 2000	SEP 2000	NOV 1999
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.8	Atchison	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.4
MISSOURI	2.9	3.1	2.9	2.5	Audrain	2.7	2.9	2.8	1.8
ST. LOUIS MSA	3.1	3.3	3.5	2.9	Barton	2.0	2.2	1.9	1.9
Franklin	2.8	3.3	4.1	2.7	Bates	4.1	3.8	3.2	2.9
Jefferson	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.2	Benton	6.0	5.7	5.3	4.2
Lincoln	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4	Caldwell	3.8	3.7	3.3	4.2
St. Charles	1.8	1.9	2.1	1.6	Carroll	3.6	2.9	2.0	2.8
St. Louis County	2.2	2.6	2.6	2.1	Cedar	3.5	2.8	2.8	3.0
Warren	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.7	Chariton	5.2	5.5	4.2	3.9
St. Louis City	5.4	6.3	5.8	5.0	Clark	3.1	4.1	3.1	3.6
KANSAS CITY MSA	2.9	3.1	2.8	2.7	Cooper	3.2	2.5	1.9	1.7
Cass	2.2	2.5	2.2	1.8	Crawford	4.8	5.7	5.4	4.0
Clay	1.7	1.9	1.7	2.4	Dade	3.6	3.9	3.3	2.7
Clinton	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.9	Dallas	5.4	6.6	5.3	3.4
Jackson	3.1	3.6	3.2	2.9	Daviess	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.4
Lafayette	2.7	2.9	2.4	3.0	DeKalb	2.1	1.9	1.5	1.5
Platte	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.8	Dent	5.9	6.3	4.8	4.4
Ray	2.7	2.8	2.4	4.6	Douglas	7.0	5.6	5.2	3.7
SPRINGFIELD MSA	2.2	2.2	2.0	1.7	Dunklin	4.8	4.6	3.8	3.6
Christian	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.6	Gasconade	2.7	2.7	3.2	1.7
Greene	2.1	2.2	2.0	1.7	Gentry	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.2
Webster	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.7	Grundy	2.5	3.3	2.7	1.8
JOPLIN MSA	3.0	3.5	3.3	2.6	Harrison	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.7
Jasper	2.7	3.1	2.7	2.2	Henry	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.4
Newton	3.5	4.2	4.3	3.4	Hickory	6.3	6.7	5.5	3.6
COLUMBIA MSA	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	Holt	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.1
Boone	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	Howard	3.6	2.9	2.1	2.4
ST. JOSEPH MSA	2.9	3.1	2.6	2.4	Iron	6.3	6.9	6.8	5.8
Andrew	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.3	Johnson	2.3	2.7	2.4	1.8
Buchanan	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.4	Knox	3.7	3.4	1.9	1.9
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.3	Laclede	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.6
Adair	2.3	2.3	1.4	1.0	Lewis	2.5	2.4	2.1	2.5
Schuyler	3.9	3.3	1.7	2.5	Linn	8.4	10.2	8.8	6.6
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	4.4	4.5	4.2	3.3	Livingston	2.5	2.3	1.9	1.5
Butler	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.3	McDonald	3.6	4.3	4.3	3.1
Carter	5.1	4.2	3.8	3.3	Macon	5.9	4.4	3.5	2.5
Ripley	5.4	6.1	5.4	3.0	Madison	5.5	5.9	5.6	3.9
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	4.3	3.4	2.5	3.6	Mercer	2.2	2.3	1.6	2.1
Camden	4.3	3.3	2.5	3.8	Monroe	4.2	4.3	3.5	3.2
Miller	4.3	3.4	2.5	3.3	Montgomery	3.2	3.4	3.0	2.7
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	3.2	3.4	3.1	2.6	Morgan	5.3	3.8	2.7	2.8
Bollinger	3.8	4.3	3.9	2.6	Nodaway	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.7
Cape Girardeau	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.1	Ozark	4.0	3.8	2.9	3.6
Mississippi	7.2	5.7	4.5	3.7	Pemiscot	7.0	6.5	5.4	4.8
New Madrid	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.5	Perry	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.4
Scott	3.4	3.8	3.6	2.9	Pettis	3.0	3.1	2.6	2.2
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	2.0	2.2	1.8	1.6	Pike	3.2	3.3	3.0	2.7
Callaway	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.6	Polk	2.5	2.8	2.1	2.3
Cole	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.3	Pulaski	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.3
Moniteau	2.5	2.5	2.0	1.3	Putnam	3.3	3.0	2.2	2.8
Osage	2.7	4.1	1.7	4.0	Randolph	3.9	3.3	3.0	2.2
HOWELL-OREGON-SHANNON LMA	3.6	3.8	3.1	3.0	Reynolds	6.4	6.5	5.8	3.1
Howell	3.3	3.7	3.2	2.7	St. Clair	3.8	3.6	2.9	3.0
Oregon	2.5	3.4	2.5	2.9	Ste. Genevieve	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.3
Shannon	5.9	4.9	3.0	4.2	Saline	2.2	2.4	2.1	1.9
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.6	Scotland	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.9
Barry	3.2	2.7	2.3	2.7	Shelby	6.0	5.0	4.8	5.4
Lawrence	2.6	2.7	2.4	2.4	Stoddard	4.6	4.1	3.8	3.1
MARION-RALLS LMA	3.5	3.7	3.2	2.8	Stone	4.2	3.2	2.7	3.7
Marion	3.3	3.7	3.3	2.6	Sullivan	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.4
Ralls	4.0	3.8	3.1	3.4	Taney	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.8
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	2.3	2.3	2.2	1.9	Texas	6.3	5.8	5.1	7.1
Maries	2.3	2.7	2.2	2.0	Vernon	2.3	2.6	2.4	2.1
Phelps	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.9	Wayne	7.5	7.2	6.3	5.6
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	5.5	5.8	5.6	4.6	Worth	3.7	4.2	3.3	3.9
St. Francois	5.3	5.6	5.3	4.5	Wright	7.0	6.0	4.7	4.1
Washington	6.2	6.3	6.5	4.8					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.
PRODUCED BY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, IN COOPERATION
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